

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 50-68 were pending in the application. Claims 50-62 and 64-68 are rejected. Claim 63 is objected to. By the foregoing amendment, claim 61 is amended and claims 50-60 and 68 are withdrawn. No new matter is presented.

Applicants request reconsideration and a favorable decision in light of the above amendments and below remarks.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claims 50-60 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,730,020 to Peng et al. ("Peng") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,393,728 to Larson et al. ("Larson").

Since claims 50-60 and 68 have been withdrawn, this rejection is moot.

B. Claims 61, 62 and 64-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,139,563 to Cosgrove, III et al. ("Cosgrove") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,730,020 to Peng et al. ("Peng") in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,393,728 to Larson et al. ("Larson"). Applicants traverse the rejection as it applies to the currently amended claims.

Independent claim 61 has been amended to include the limitations of indicated as allowable claim 63.

In light of the foregoing amendment, it is believed that claims 61, 62 and 64-67 are patentably distinct from

the art on record and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that independent claim 61 and dependent claims 62 and 64-67 are patentably distinct from the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

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Respectfully submitted,

David J. Danitz et al.

By /y. lynnnette kelly/
Y. Lynnette Kelly
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No.: 60,010

Telephone: 203-777-6628
Telefax: 203-865-0297

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